



Hazardous Waste Fee Extension

Frequently Asked Questions

Hazardous Waste Program fact sheet

10/2003

What is the Hazardous Waste Fee Extension?

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Waste Program uses the Hazardous Waste Category and Land Disposal Fees to assure cleanup of pollution, promote safe waste management and to prevent future exposure. The fees will expire on Jan. 1, 2005 unless they are extended in the upcoming legislative session. The department is seeking to extend the fees. This extension will not increase current fees.

What is the history of the fees?

The Hazardous Waste Land Disposal Fee began in 1983 with House Bill 528. The Hazardous Waste Category Fee started in 1985 with Senate Bill 110. The fees were deposited into the Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund. In 2000, Senate Bill 577 extended the fees until Jan. 1, 2005 and created the Hazardous Waste Fund. Sixty percent of the fees are placed into the Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund and 40 percent into the Hazardous Waste Fund.

Who pays the fees?

The Hazardous Waste Category fee is paid annually by businesses and individuals that generate hazardous waste. The fee for each generator is based on the amount of hazardous waste generated and the method of disposal. This fee brings in more than \$2.5 million a year to Missouri.

The Hazardous Waste Land Disposal fee is a \$25 per ton fee on all hazardous waste that is land disposed. It is paid annually by businesses and individuals that generate hazardous waste and brought in \$145,000 in fiscal year 2003.

What activities do the fees support?

Fees paid by businesses and individuals that generate hazardous waste help fund the state's prevention and cleanup efforts that protect the health and safety of Missourians and their environment from the dangers posed by mishandling of hazardous substances. A portion of the fees are required to obtain federal funds to maintain Missouri's environmental programs.

The fees fund four major activities.

- Environmental emergency response
- Pollution prevention
- Cleanup oversight
- Administration



A few examples of work performed include:

- operating a 24-hours a day, seven days a week hazardous substance spill hotline;
- providing on-scene response to environmental emergencies;
- writing and overseeing compliance with hazardous waste management facility permits;
- directing cleanup and corrective action at illegal waste sites;
- inspecting, assisting and assuring compliance at hazardous waste facilities;
- investigating and directing cleanup at abandoned hazardous waste sites; and
- protecting potential property buyers by informing them of contaminated sites through the Registry of Abandoned and Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites.

What groups receive the fees to support the state's hazardous waste efforts?

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Hazardous Waste Program
Environmental Services Program
Regional Offices
Outreach and Assistance Center
Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division
Department/Division Administration

Other state agencies

Attorney General's Office
Office of Administration
Department of Health and Senior Services

What will happen if the category and land disposal fees expire?

About 48 percent of the state's income for hazardous waste regulation, permits and cleanup oversight will be in jeopardy if the fees are not extended. This includes \$2.6 million in fees received from the generators and another \$5.8 million in federal funding.

Without a fee extension, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may take on many of the state's hazardous waste efforts. Some activities will be reduced; others simply eliminated. The partnerships between business and state and federal government that keep Missourians safe from the threats of hazardous pollutants could be dismantled.

What are some of the potential consequences if the fees expire?

If the fees expire, the state will be faced with difficult choices about what services it can maintain. The consequences of losing the fees may be felt by Missouri citizens, businesses, industry and local, state and federal government.

- The state may lose its resources to enforce federal and state hazardous waste laws that protect Missourians. If this happens:
 - Businesses will lose the compliance assistance and flexibility provided by the department.
 - Higher federal penalties will be assessed.
 - The level playing field for businesses would be threatened.
- In taking over the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program, EPA may lack adequate funds for some time. Environmental response times, permit review and issuance, and site cleanups may be delayed.
- The state's oversight at many contaminated site cleanups under RCRA and Superfund could be reduced and in some cases eliminated. Also, the pace of many ongoing cleanups would slow down.

- Delays in cleanups may cause lost opportunities for revitalization at RCRA and Superfund sites. This may prevent redevelopment and economic growth resulting in urban sprawl and farmland depletion.
- The department may be unable to pay its share of EPA's Superfund cleanups in Missouri. If this happens, EPA may withdraw support for cleaning up Superfund sites in Missouri which includes lead contaminated sites.
- Missouri's hazardous substance spill hotline may be eliminated.
- On-site environmental emergency response assistance may be eliminated.
- The Registry of Abandoned and Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites may be eliminated.

What activities may remain if the fees are not extended?

The following activities are not dependent on the category and land disposal fees:

- Federal facility oversight
- Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program assistance and economic incentives
- Petroleum and hazardous substance storage tank regulation and clean up
- Dry cleaner assessment and clean up

Are the department's hazardous waste efforts funded by any other fees?

Yes, other fees are collected. However, they are required to be used for specific purposes.

Those other fees are:

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| • generator registration fees | • \$1 per ton generator fees |
| • commercial facility inspection fees | • transporter licensing fees |
| • voluntary cleanup oversight costs | • permit and engineering review costs |
| • underground storage tank registration fee | • petroleum storage tank insurance fund |
| • resource recovery application and review costs | • corrective action reimbursement costs |
| • miscellaneous - includes cost recovery from responsible parties, interest and some settlements. | |

How do the fees support the state's hazardous waste efforts?

The department helps Missouri businesses comply with hazardous waste regulations and produce less waste. The cooperation and success of working with businesses, local officials and citizens promotes a healthy economy and environment.

The fee extension will help the department continue to work with citizens, businesses and local officials to protect Missourians from the dangers of hazardous wastes and substances.

What can I do?

For more information, contact:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Hazardous Waste Program

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Or call 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-3176

Or visit the Web at www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/hwp